



# ***Are You Prepared?***

## **What Elected Officials Should Know About Emergency Management**

**April 2004**

By

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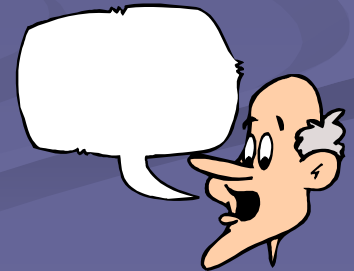
**Washington State Emergency Management Association**

# Are you prepared?

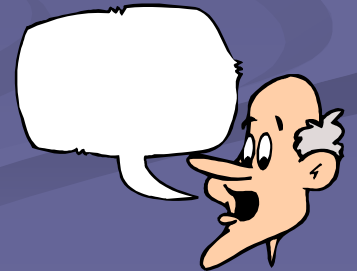
1. How do you score?
  - ✓ Emergency Management Self Assessment
2. What is the role of your local emergency management agency?
3. What is your role before, during and after a disaster?
4. What is happening in national and state homeland security?
5. What is the Task Force on Local Programs doing for local emergency management?

# Self-Assessment

*Every day that passes brings  
you closer to your  
community's next disaster.  
Will you be prepared?*



*County and local governments  
are the first line of public  
responsibility for emergencies  
and disasters.*



# Your local emergency management agency

- Who are we? And...
- What do we do for you?

# Your local emergency management agency; we are...

- Required by law

- ✓ “Each political subdivision of this state is hereby authorized and directed to establish a local organization or to be a member of a joint local organization for emergency management...”  
(RCW 38.52.070)

- Diverse in nature

- ✓ Assignments
- ✓ Size
- ✓ Capabilities

# Your local emergency management agency; what we do for you...

- Educate your citizens
- Train your responders
- Develop emergency response plans
- Build teams
- Develop and maintain systems needed during times of crisis

# Your local emergency management agency; what we do for you...

- Provide 24/7 emergency response capabilities
- Maintain the Emergency Operation Center (EOC)
- Link you to mutual aid and regional, state, and federal assistance, if you run short of emergency resources
- Provide Homeland Security coordination and planning



# Your local emergency management agency also...

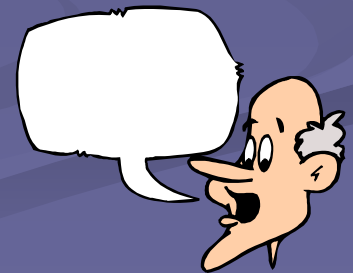
- Coordinates Emergency Management Program Grant (EMPG) funds
- Maintains a Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (CEMP)
  - ✓ Provide planning assistance
- Coordinates mitigation plans
- Maintains essential databases
  - ✓ Volunteers, resources, shelters, etc.

# Your local emergency management agency also...

*(continued)*

- Provides on-scene response coordination
- Facilitates compliance with the Emergency Planning Community Right-to-Know Act
- Is responsible for the Emergency Alert and Warning Systems

*Political fortunes have been won or lost on not only the actual role played by elected officials, but also on the public's perception of leadership during the incident.*



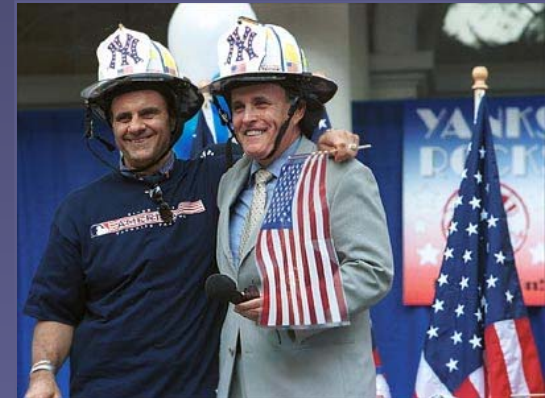
# Disasters may...



Former Seattle Mayor  
Paul Schell

**HINDER**  
careers, or...

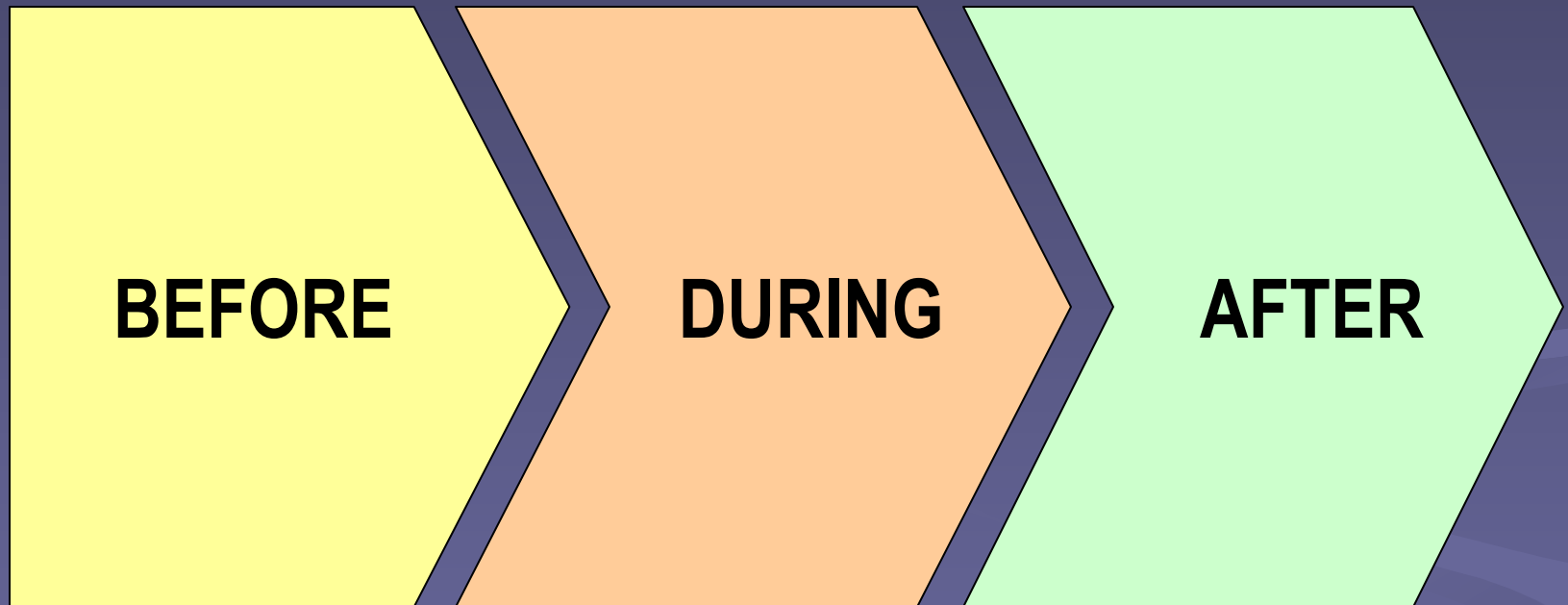
**BENEFIT**  
careers



Former NY Mayor  
Rudy "The Rock" Giuliani

...depending on how they are handled

# Your roles and responsibilities



# Your roles and responsibilities...



## **Before an Incident**

- Clearly define expectations and goals
- Understand risks and response capabilities
- Know the plan – and make sure everyone else knows the plan
- Ensure the plan is current and tested
- Support efforts to address plan gaps or deficiencies
- Maintain up-to-date lists to ensure Continuity of Government (COG)
- Review emergency ordinances to ensure they are adequate
- Visit your Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and participate in drills

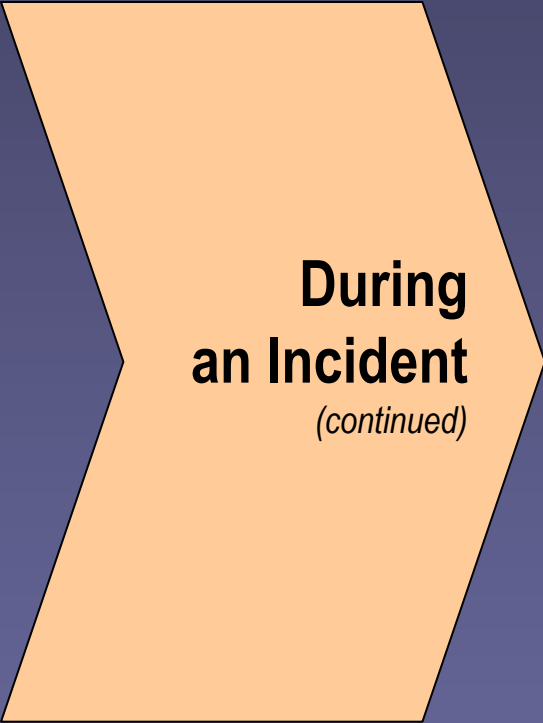
# Your roles and responsibilities...



## **During an Incident**

- Know incident objectives
- Be knowledgeable about overall response
- Provide visible leadership
- Ensure appropriate management structures are in place
- Be sure your expectations are being met

# Your roles and responsibilities...



## **During an Incident** *(continued)*

- Consider the need for an emergency proclamation
- Review key messages
- Obtain briefings before meeting with the media
- Brief other elected officials
- Maintain a written log of all actions you take – consider a scribe to log for you



# Your roles and responsibilities...



## **After an Incident**

- Continue to provide visible leadership
- Meet with impacted constituents
- Implement your Recovery Plan
- Participate in after action reviews and critiques
- Support identified corrective actions

# Special Powers...RCW 38.52.070



Provides the power to enter into contracts and incur obligations necessary to combat disaster and protect the “health and safety of persons and property...”

# Special Powers...RCW 38.52.070



Allows powers to be used in emergencies “without regard for time-consuming procedures and formalities prescribed by law”..., including:

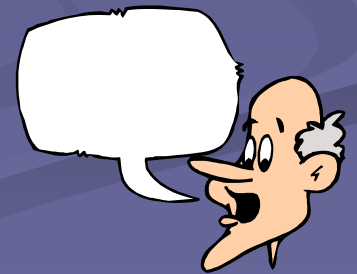
- ✓ Budget law limitations
- ✓ Competitive bidding requirements
- ✓ Publication of notices
- ✓ Levying of taxes and the appropriation and expenditure of public funds

# Special Powers...RCW 38.52.110



Following a disaster declaration by the Governor, the Chief Executive of counties, cities and towns, and the emergency management director “have the power to command the service and equipment of as many citizens as considered necessary...”

# Questions?





*You no longer have to be a superpower to ATTACK a superpower. Domestic Preparedness is an imperative.*



# The new Department of Homeland Security (DHS)

## Re-aligned...

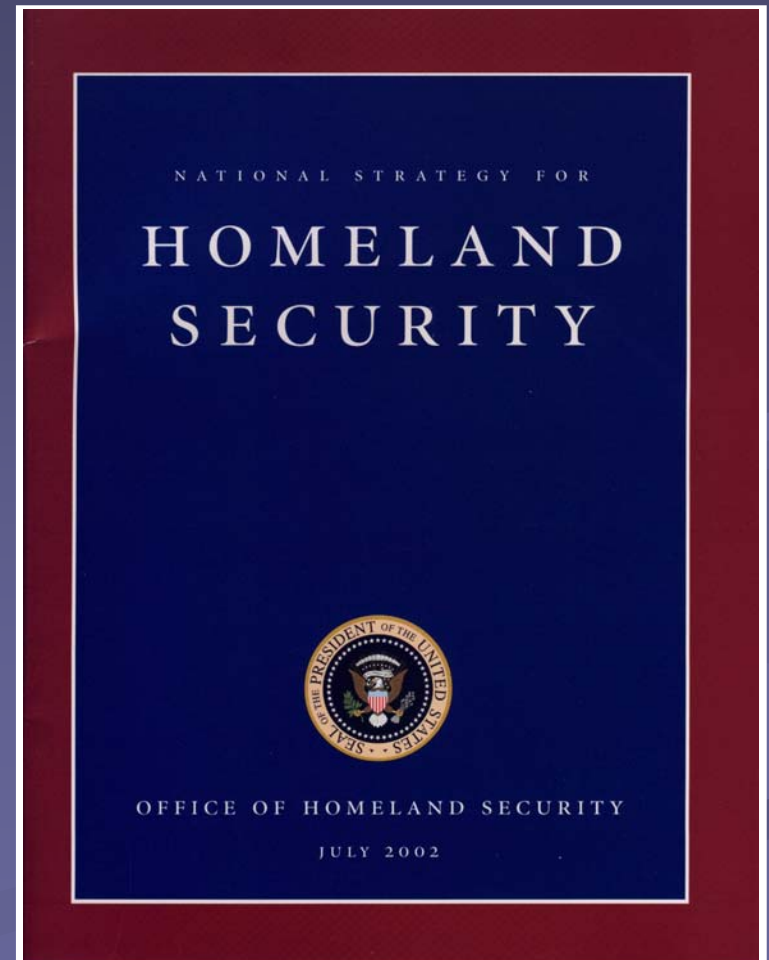
- Over 100 different agencies with homeland security missions
- Over 88 congressional committees and subcommittees with jurisdiction over current agencies

## Established strategic objectives...

- Prevent terrorism attacks within the United States
- Reduce America's vulnerability to terrorism
- Minimize the damage and recover from attacks that do occur

# Priorities of the new DHS and national homeland security strategy

- Support emergency responders
- Defend against biological terrorism
- Secure America's borders
- Intelligence and information sharing
- Continuity of Government (COG) and services
- Critical infrastructure protection





# Implications for Washington State



- Establish a HLS Task Force
- Develop a statewide strategy
- Identify and prioritize critical infrastructure and key assets
- Implement and expand mutual aid agreements
- Deploy the Incident Management System
- Develop responder training and evaluation standards
- Deploy interoperable communication systems
- Improve health system response capability

# Washington State Homeland Security Strategy Themes

The Washington  
Statewide  
Homeland Security Strategic Plan



Team Washington  
A statewide collaborative partnership.  
2003

- Partnership and leadership
- Communication
- Prevent attacks
- Reduce vulnerabilities
- Emergency preparedness and response
- Emergency response and recovery
- Resource capacity

# Washington State Homeland Security Strategy Priorities

- Training, equipping and exercising emergency responders
- Enhancing healthcare and public health systems
- Fusing and sharing intelligence information
- Planning for and providing Continuity of Government (COG) and business operations
- Assessing and protecting key assets and critical infrastructure
- Ensuring elected official, community and business leaders, volunteers and citizens are well informed and fully prepared
- Protecting and supporting continuous functioning of interoperable communications and public safety information systems
- Executing proactive deterrence, preemption and prevention initiatives

# State Homeland Security Grant Programs (SHSGP)

- Equipment Programs
- Training
- Exercises
- High Threat Urban Areas
- Strategic Planning and Technical Assistance
- Management and Administration
- Citizen Corps and Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT)
- Law Enforcement Terrorism Prevention Program (LETPP)

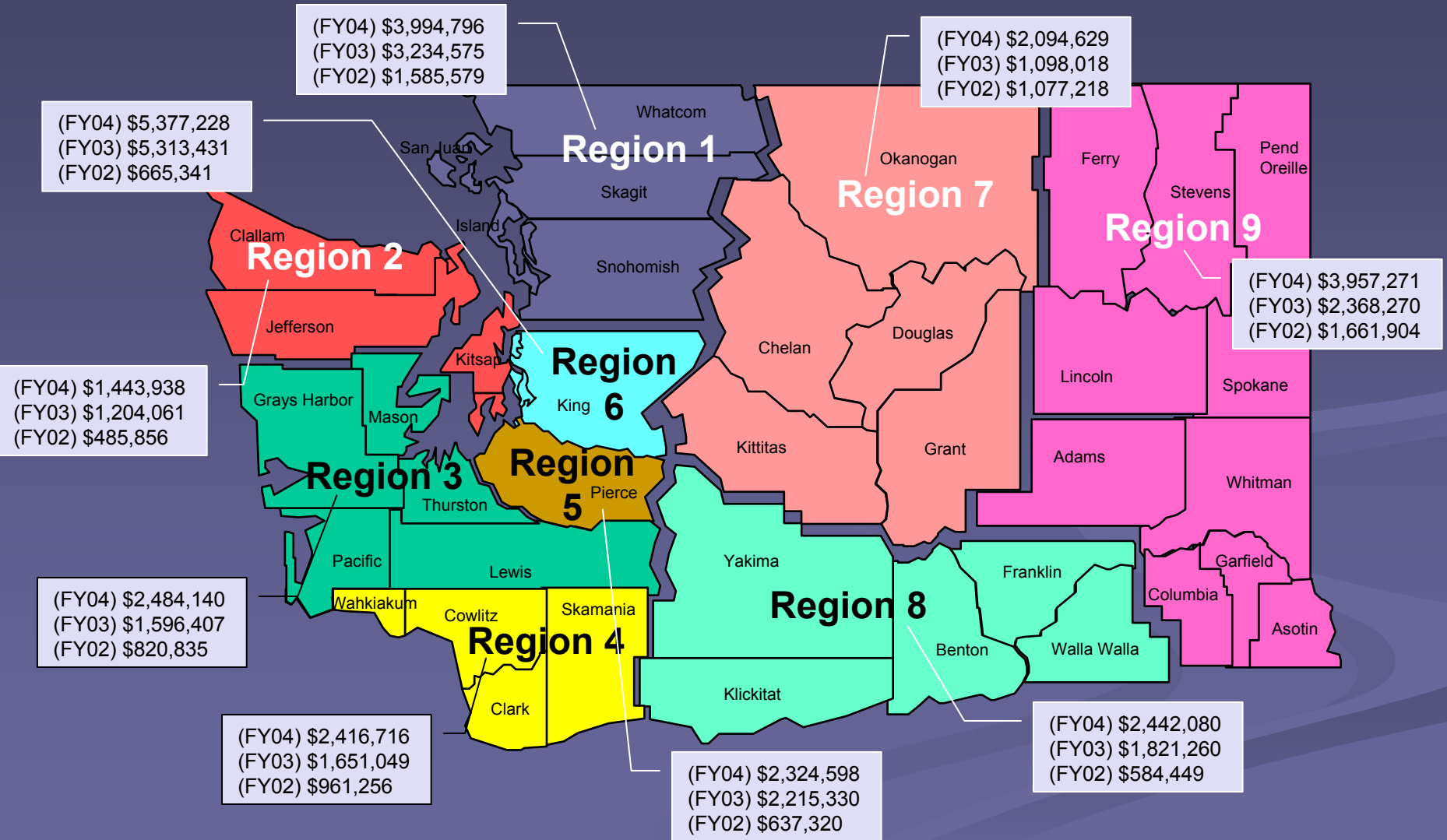
# State Homeland Security Grant Program (SHSGP) Funding Allocation

<b>2000</b>	\$1,455,054 - DOJ (Equipment)
<b>2001</b>	\$1,538,000 - DOJ (Equipment)
<b>2002</b>	\$3,117,915 (Equipment, Exercises, EOP, Citizen Corps-CERT)
<b>2003</b>	\$41,216,000 (Equipment, Training, Exercises, Planning)
<b>2004</b>	\$44,276,000 (SHSP, LETPP, Citizens Corps-CERT)

# Where the money goes...

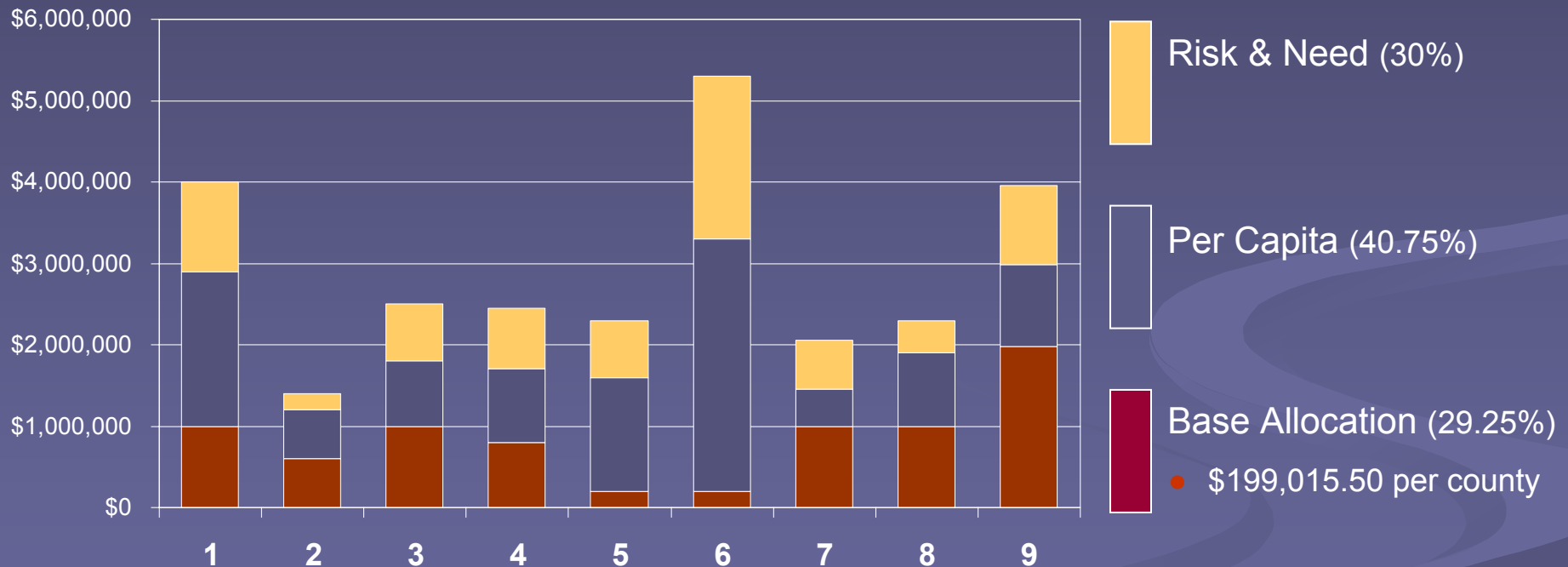


# Regional Homeland Security Coordination Districts and SHSGP Appropriations



# How do you figure that?

State Homeland Security Grant Program (SHSGP)  
Distribution by Region and Allocation Variables





Questions?



That's the way  
things are...



# Emergency Management Council's Task Force on Local Programs

- What is the Task Force on Local Programs?
- What are we working on?
- What's next?

## **TASK FORCE ON LOCAL PROGRAMS**

### The Task Force on Local Programs

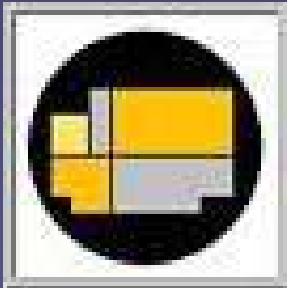
- Was created by the Emergency Management Council (EMC) to look at the state of emergency management in Washington's counties, cities and tribes...
- To develop an inventory of statewide emergency management program capabilities and needs

# The Task Force has been active since early 2003

- The Task Force collected program information from all 39 counties, and 229 cities (81%)
- This initial effort focused on a narrow scope and did not meet the full charge of its charter
- 52 of 281 (19%) of Washington cities and towns did not respond to the initial survey
- Both cities and counties provided incomplete, conflicting, and sometimes incorrect information, as well as information indicating program gaps

*The state of local emergency management  
preparedness is uncertain*

# So now what?



- The Task Force invited the Washington State Association of Counties (WSAC) and the Association of Washington Cities (AWC) to facilitate and assist the Task Force's efforts
  - ✓ Because emergency management is local government's responsibility
  - ✓ To collect credible, accurate data and information
  - ✓ To work through the associations to address the broad issues of comprehensive, statewide emergency management

# What are we working on now?

- Data collection!
  - ✓ 39 county programs (including 172 cities)
  - ✓ 109 cities not included in a county program
  - ✓ 36 tribes
- A variety of assistance will be made available
  - ✓ Regional training sessions
  - ✓ Individual meetings or telephone calls
  - ✓ Online data entry and instructions
  - ✓ Telephone hotline
  - ✓ Email hotline

# What do we hope to accomplish?

- What is the state's existing local capacity to meet current law, and its newly identified emergency management responsibility?
- What do local governments need to effectively meet defined responsibilities?
- Can current laws, regulations, policies or organizational structures be improved to better enable comprehensive emergency management?
- How can local emergency management be effectively supported to meet current and future risks?
- What resources are available to local emergency management and how can they be most effectively coordinated?



# What's next?

- We will be working with your local emergency management agencies to help discover the answers to these questions.
- Please visit our website at [www.EMCTaskforce.org](http://www.EMCTaskforce.org) to learn more about:
  - ✓ The Task Force
  - ✓ The Emergency Management Council
  - ✓ Our Recent Activities
  - ✓ Resources for elected officials